

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 040115Z OCT 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4505

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS DISCUSSION WITH TENG HSIAO-PING

1. FRG EMBOFF HAS PASSED ON TO US BRIEF ACCOUNT OF
SEPT 18 CONVERSATION BETWEEN CSU LEADER FRANZ-JOSEF
STRAUSS AND PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AS RELATED
TO WEST GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS BY STRAUSS.

2. EUROPE. MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION WAS APPARENTLY TAKEN
UP WITH TENG'S RECITATION OF FAMILIAR PRC THEMES ON DANGER
TO EUROPE POSED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND IMPORTANCE OF
EUROPEAN UNITY AND VIGILANCE AGAINST THE THREAT. HE RE-
PORTEDLY TOLD STRAUSS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT BREZHNEV
WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN KHRUSHCHEV HAD BEEN BECAUSE
BREZHNEV IS CLEVERER AND SUBTLER IN HIS APPROACH.

3. VIETNAM. TENG ONCE AGAIN, AS HE HAS WITH OTHER
VISITING LEADERS, RAISED THE ISSUE OF SOVIET EFFORTS
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TO OBTAIN NAVAL BASES IN VIETNAM, ADDING THE USUAL

CAVEAT THAT CHINA DOES NOT THINK SOVIET EFFORTS WILL SUCCEED. HE THEN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF SOVIETS DID MANAGE TO GET THE BASES, THIS WOULD RAISE TENSION IN THE AREA. TENG AGAIN CLAIMED SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED A JOINT NAVY TO CHINESE IN 1957-58 BUT THAT CHINESE HAD TURNED THEM DOWN FEARING A JOINT NAVY WOULD PUT CHINESE PORTS AND COASTLINE AT SOVIET MERCY. ASSUMPTION WAS VIETNAMESE WOULD MAKE SIMILAR CALCULATION.

4. KOREA AND TAIWAN. ON KOREA, THE VICE PREMIER TOOK THE USUAL LINE THAT US TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN. WHEN STRAUSS ASKED IF THIS WOULD NOT HAVE AN UNSETTLING EFFECT ON JAPAN WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO CHINESE INTERESTS, TENG REPLIED THAT US TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON JAPAN. ON TAIWAN, HE SAID THAT A SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE LONG-TERM ONE. ASKED IF SOVIETS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A US WITHDRAWAL FROM TAIWAN TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN FOOTHOLD, TENG REPLIED THIS WAS NOT A DANGER BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PERMIT IT TO HAPPEN.

5. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. GERMAN EMBOFF CONFIRMED ACCURACY OF SEPT 18 REUTERS STORY THAT TENG HAD TOLD STRAUSS THERE WOULD BE NO ALTERATION IN CHINA'S POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION "UNTIL THE KREMLIN CHANGED ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL IMPERIALISM." HE ALSO APPARENTLY PROFESSED LACK OF CONCERN THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTAIN ITS GOAL OF MILITARY ENCIRCLEMENT OF CHINA.
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